

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
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R 110950Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5218
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 1285

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PDIP PEPR PINS BM CH MY
SUBJ: PROPOSED JOINT SEASIAN APPROACH TO PRC FOR CES-
SATION OF SUPPORT FOR COMMUNIST INSURGENTS

REF: (A) RANGOON 315, (B) RANGOON 1073 (NOTAL)

1.DURING A GENERAL CONVERSATION ON APRIL 10,
AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR LAVETT TOLD ME THAT HE HAD AN
OPPORTUNITY OVER THE PAST WEEKEND TO DISCUSS WITH
MALAYSIAN AMBASSADOR YUSOF BIN ARIFF HIS RECENT
CONSULTATIONS IN KUALA LUMPUR. YUSOF TOLD LAVETT
THAT KL'S (READ GOM MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS)
ATTITUDE HAD "COLLED" TOWARD THE IDEA OF ENCOURAGING
NE WIN TO TAKE THE LEAD, ON BEHALF OF SEASIA,
IN TRYING TO CONVINCE PRC TO CEASE ITS MATERIAL
SUPPORT OF COMMUNIST INSURGENCIES IN SEASIA.
APPARENTLY YUSOF'S PRINCIPALS IN KL HAVE COME TO
THE TENTATIVE VIEW THAT IF NE WIN SUCCEEDED AND
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THE PRC WITHDREW ITS SUPPORT TO THE BCP, A VACUUM
WOULD BE CREATED INTO WHICH THE SOVIETS WOULD STEP,
CREATING A WORSE SITUATION THAN NOW EXISTS. AC-
CORDING TO LAVETT, YUSOF DOES NOT SHARE THIS VIEW
AND WILL CONTINUE TO TRY TO CONVINCE HIS PRIN-
CIPALS THAT THEY SHOULD FOLLOW THROUGH WITH THE
PROPOSAL REPORTED IN REF A. LAVETT WAS

UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT KL HAD NOT YET MADE A
FINAL DECISION.

2. COMMENT: KL'S "VACUUM FILLING" THEORY MAKES NO
SENSE FROM OUR OPTIC. THE SOVIETS ARE ALREADY IN
BAD ODOR IN BURMA AND SEEM ANXIOUS TO IMPROVE THEIR
POSITION WITH THE GUB. REPLACING THE PRC AS MAIN
SUPPORT FOR THE BCP WOULD NOT ACHIEVE THAT GOAL.
IN ADDITION, THE LOGISTICS OF SIVJET SUPPORT WOULD
BE RXTREMELY DIFFICULT AND COSTLY BECAUSE ONLY
FEASIBLE SUPPLY ROUTE WOULD BE OVERLAND ACROSS
VIETNAM AND LAOS OR BY AIR DROP ACROSS SAME TERRI-
TORY. RISKS AND COSTS WOULD SEEM TO NEGATE POSSI-
BILITY OF SOVIET INVOLVEMENT. END COMMENT.
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